

IN THE CLAIMS

1-10 (canceled).

11. (currently amended) A method of producing a tablet including live bacteria comprising the steps:

a) mixing at least one strain of said live bacteria with at least one fructose oligosaccharide to form a mixture,

b) ~~pressing~~compressing said mixture ~~into a tablet~~
~~employing a force sufficient so as~~ to form said tablet having a friability of between 0.1 and 1.0 while maintaining at least about 60% viability of said bacteria following the compression.

12. (previously presented) The method of claim 11 wherein said fructose oligosaccharide is present in an amount of about 40-99.5% by weight of said tablet.

13. (canceled).

14. (previously presented) The method of claim 11 wherein said fructose oligosaccharide is inulin.

15. (previously presented) The method of claim 11 wherein said bacteria are lactic acid producing bacteria.

16. (currently amended) A method of producing a tablet including live bacteria comprising the steps:

a) mixing at least one strain of live lactic acid-producing bacteria with at least one fructose oligosaccharide to form a mixture; and

b) ~~pressing~~compressing said mixture ~~into a tablet~~
~~employing a force sufficient so as~~ to form said tablet having a friability of between 0.1 and 1.0 while maintaining at least about 60% viability of said lactic acid-producing bacteria.

17. (previously presented) The method of claim 16 wherein said fructose oligosaccharide is inulin.

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 16 further comprising adding at least one pharmaceutically acceptable additive to said bacteria and said fructose oligosaccharide prior to said pressing step.

19. (previously presented) The method of claim 16 further comprising adding microcrystalline cellulose to said bacteria and said fructose oligosaccharide prior to said pressing step.

20. (previously presented) The method of claim 16 further comprising adding starch to said bacteria and said fructose oligosaccharide prior to said pressing step.

21. (previously presented) The method of claim 16 further comprising adding calcium diphosphate to said bacteria and said fructose oligosaccharide prior to said pressing step.

22. (currently amended) A method of producing a tablet including live bacteria comprising the steps:

a) mixing live bacteria *Streptococcus thermophilus*, *Lactobacillus bulgaricus*, *Bifidobacterium animalis* and *Lactobacillus plantaris* with inulin to produce a mixture; and

b) ~~pressing-compressing~~ said mixture ~~into a tablet~~ employing a force sufficient so as to form said tablet having a friability of between 0.1 and 1.0 while maintaining at least about 60% viability of said bacteria.

23. (previously presented) The method of claim 22 further comprising adding at least one pharmaceutically acceptable additive to said live bacteria and said inulin.

24. (previously presented) The method of claim 22 further comprising adding calcium diphosphate to said live bacteria and said inulin.

25. (previously presented) The method of claim 22 further comprising adding microcrystalline cellulose to said live bacteria and said inulin.

26. (previously presented) The method of claim 22 further comprising adding starch to said live bacteria and said inulin.

27. (currently amended) A method of producing a tablet including live bacteria comprising the steps;

a) mixing at least one live bacteria selected from the group consisting of *Streptococcus thermophilus*,

Lactobacillus bulgaricus, *Bifidobacterium animalis* and *Lactobacillus plantaris* with inulin, and at least one additive selected from the group consisting of microcrystalline cellulose, calcium diphosphate and starch; and

b) ~~pressing-compressing~~ said mixture ~~into a tablet employing a force sufficient so as to~~ form said tablet having a friability of between 0.1 and 1.0 and maintain at least about 60% viability of said *Streptococcus thermophilus*, *Lactobacillus bulgaricus*, *Bifidobacterium animalis* and *Lactobacillus plantaris*.

28. (canceled).

29. (previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the friability of the tablet is between 0.3 and 0.5.

30. (previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the friability of the tablet is between 0.3 and 0.5.

31. (previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the friability of the tablet is between 0.3 and 0.5.

32. (previously presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the friability of the tablet is between 0.3 and 0.5.